

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action mailed on June 30, 2003. Claims 16-18 and 45-57 have been rejected. Claims 50 and 51 have been Canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 16-18, 45-49, and 52-57 are pending.

Claim amendments were made to better define one embodiment of the invention, notwithstanding the Applicants' belief that the unamended claims would have been allowable, without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's arguments, and without waiving the right to prosecute the unamended (or similar) claims in another application, for the purpose of furthering Applicants' business goals and expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals. None of the amendments to the claims is related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated so herein. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the originally filed claims in the future.

The Specification has been objected to because of embedded hyperlinks. These have been deleted herein. Applicants request that the objection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention. The Examiner has expressed specific concerns regarding the phrase "liquid light guide comprises" in Claim 16; the phrase "30% transmission loss" in Claim 50; the phrase "stage comprising a device for moving the cells" in Claim 52; the phrase "filter wheel" in Claim 55; and the phrase "software for creating and sequentially naming files of the information" in Claim 57. Applicants appreciate the suggestions by the Office on how to clarify the language and have amended the claims accordingly. Applicants note that support for the amendments of Claim 52 and Claim 57 can be found, for example, in Claim 2, as originally filed and on page 15, respectively. Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

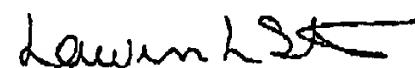
Claims 16-18 and 52-56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hemstreet in view of Sutherland. Applicants traverse this rejection for at least the reasons set forth previously in the prosecution of this case.

However, to expedite the prosecution of this case which has been pending since 1999 and as Claims 50 and 51 have not been rejected and thus, are free of the art, Applicants have amended Claim 16 herein to include the limitations of Claims 50 and 51. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the rejection has been overcome and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully maintain that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this Application from the Examiner. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
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